

(Washington, D.C.) - *Congressman Tim Ryan (D-Niles) released the following statement today in recognition of Martin Luther King Day, which is celebrated on Monday, January 15th*

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"As our nation celebrates Martin Luther King Day, we are called to remember and honor Dr. King's triumphs and sacrifices. At a time when African-Americans were silenced by gross injustice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. provided a powerful voice for equality. Through the example of his leadership, he gave all Americans the courage to work together peacefully for change.

"Dr. King believed that our government had a responsibility to meet the needs of ordinary families. But now, on what would have been his 78th birthday, America's broken health care system, growing economic inequality, and lingering social injustice show that we have a long way to go before realizing Dr. King's extraordinary vision.

"I remain hopeful, however, that we are bringing Dr. King's dream closer to reality. Last week, the Democratic House of Representatives passed a measure that will help nearly 13 million American workers and their families by raising the minimum wage. We followed that achievement by passing a bill to help reduce prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries, and, this week, Democrats in Congress will move to cut the cost of college for approximately

5.5 million low- and middle-income undergraduates and their families.

“So on Martin Luther King Day, and every day, let us honor Dr. King's legacy by recommitting ourselves to his dream for America.”